

CLAIMS

1. A sheet material comprising a plurality of folds defining at least four segments, the sheet material being foldable and unfoldable about said folds, the sheet material comprising first and second securement means, arranged in use to cooperate to releasably secure the sheet material in the folded configuration when folded, and wherein the securement means are located such that the sheet material is foldable to a partially folded configuration comprising three columns of segments in a single row in which the first securement means is located on one outer column and the second securement means is located on the other outer column.

2. A sheet material comprising folds defining at least four segments arranged in at least three columns, the sheet material being foldable and unfoldable about said folds, the sheet material further comprising first and second securement means, arranged, in use, to cooperate to releasably secure the sheet material in the folded configuration when folded, the first and second securement means being located on separate columns spaced apart by one column.

3. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the folds preferably comprise a first set of parallel folds.

4. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the first set of parallel folds comprises a plurality of folds in which the direction of the folds is the same with respect to the plane of the sheet material.

5. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 3 or 4 wherein some or all of the folds comprise concertina folds.

6. A sheet material as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the sheet material comprises one or more folds
5 transverse to the first set of folds.

7. A sheet material as claimed in any preceding claim comprising four or more columns of segments arranged in a single row.

8. A sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 1 - 6
10 wherein the sheet material comprises three or more columns wherein at least one column comprises more than one row.

9. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 8 comprising three or more columns wherein each column comprises a plurality of rows of segments.

15 10. A sheet material as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the first and second securement means are located on the same row when the sheet material comprises a plurality of rows.

11. A sheet material as claimed in any preceding claim
20 wherein one of the first and second securement means are located on a segment at a corner of the sheet material, when the sheet is in the unfolded configuration.

12. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the other of the first and second securement means is
25 preferably located on a segment defined by an edge of the sheet material, spaced apart one column from the corner segment comprising the first or second securement means.

13. A sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 1 - 10 wherein one of the first and second securement means is located on a segment defined by an edge of the sheet material and the other of the first and second securement
5 means is located on an interior segment of the sheet material, not comprising an edge of the sheet material.

14. A sheet material as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the first securement means comprises a male securement member and the second securement means
10 comprises a female securement member.

15. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the male securement member comprises a tongue arranged to co-operate with a female securement member in the form of a groove or slot.

15 16. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the tongue extends from an edge of a peripheral segment of the sheet material.

17. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 15 or 16 wherein the groove or slot is formed into the surface of a
20 segment.

18. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 15 or 16 wherein the groove or slot extends substantially at a fold defining a segment.

19. A sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 1 -
25 13 wherein the first securement means comprises an edge of segment, arranged to co-operate with the second securement means in the form of a groove or slot into which at least a portion of the edge may be inserted.

20. A method of providing a folded sheet material to a surface, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a surface;
- b) providing a sheet material of the first aspect of the invention; and
- c) in any order, securing the sheet material in a folded configuration and locating the sheet material on the surface.

21. A method as claimed in Claim 20 wherein step (c) comprises securing the sheet material in the folded configuration and then locating the secured sheet material on the surface.

22. A method as claimed in Claim 20 or 21 wherein step (c) comprises connecting the sheet material to the surface.

23. A method as claimed in any one of claims 20 - 22 wherein the method comprises locating adhesive to either or both of the surface and sheet material and step (c) includes adhering the surface to the sheet material.

24. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 20 - 23 wherein the surface is a sheet article selected from a book, booklet, magazine and pamphlet.

25. A sheet material comprising an envelope portion comprising a pocket and a pocket closure flap; and a sheet portion comprising a first set of folds defining a plurality of segments, detachably connected to the pocket closure flap.

26. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the first set of folds is a first set of concertina folds.

27. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 25 or 26 wherein the sheet portion is integrally formed with the envelope
5 portion.

28. A sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 25 - 27 wherein the sheet portion comprises a second set of folds, transverse to the first set of folds.

29. A sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 25 -
10 28 wherein the sheet portion is connected to the distal edge of the closure flap.

30. A sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 25 - 29 wherein the sheet portion is connected to the closure flap at a line of weakness such that the sheet material
15 can be detached from the closure flap at said line of weakness in use.

31. A sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 25 - 30 wherein the closure flap comprises a pocket sealing means, arranged in use to seal the pocket closure flap
20 over the opening of the pocket.

32. A sheet material comprising a first set of parallel folds, defining a plurality of segments, about which folds the sheet material can be unfolded and folded, the first set of folds comprising at least two concertina folds, a
25 plurality of the segments being foldable about said concertina folds to form a stack, and wherein the sheet material comprises at least one segment which, in use, is foldable over the folded stack to form a cover portion thereon.

33. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the segment or segments comprising the cover portion effect provision of a solid spine extending substantially along the side of the stack of segments, when the cover portion
5 is folded over the stack, in use.

34. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 32 or 33 wherein the cover portion comprises a single segment or a plurality of segments.

35. A sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 32 -
10 34 comprising one or more folds transverse to the first set of folds.

36. A sheet material comprising a first set of concertina folds defining a plurality of segments, the sheet material being foldable about the folds to form a stack of
15 segments, and wherein the folds are positioned such that when the segments are folded into a stack, a plurality of the segments present a marginal portion.

37. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 36 comprising a first set of concertina folds defining a row of segments,
20 wherein the folds are positioned such that an outermost segment of the row has a first size and a plurality of subsequent segments have a width or length larger than the previous largest upstream segment in a row of segments.

38. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 37 wherein at
25 least 50% of the segments comprise a width or length larger than the previous largest upstream segment in the row.

39. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 37 or 38 wherein an outermost segment in the row has a first, smallest

width or length and a plurality of downstream adjacent segments continuous from the first segment each comprise a width or length larger than its previous upstream adjacent segment.

- 5 40. A sheet material as claimed in Claim 39 wherein all of the segments in the row comprise a width or length larger than its adjacent upstream segment.

41. A sheet article comprising a cover and at least two sheet materials fixedly connected to the cover, wherein at
10 least one of the sheet materials comprises concertina folds, and wherein the cover comprises at least a first portion and a second portion arranged in use to enable sandwiching of at least one of the sheet materials between said portions.

- 15 42. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the sheet materials are connected to different surfaces of the cover.

43. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 41 or 42 wherein the sheet materials are connected to the inside of the
20 cover.

44. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 43 wherein the sheet material comprising concertina folds comprises a single set of concertina folds defining segments of the sheet.

- 25 45. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 43 wherein the sheet material comprising concertina folds comprises a first set of concertina folds and, transverse to the first set of concertina folds, a fold or a second set of concertina folds.

46. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 45 wherein the sheet material comprising concertina folds comprises a means to facilitate folding and unfolding of the sheet material, in use.

5 47. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 46 wherein the means to facilitate opening and closing of the sheet material comprises a stiff portion connected to the sheet material.

10 48. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 47 wherein the first and second portions of the cover are rotatably connected.

49. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 48 wherein the cover comprises a surface separated into the first and second portions by a fold line.

15 50. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 48 wherein the cover comprises separate rotatably connected first and second portions.

20 51. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 50 wherein the cover comprises a book-cover configuration comprising first and second portions rotatably connected either side of a spine.

25 52. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 51 wherein at least one of the sheet materials fixedly connected to the cover comprises a plurality of leaves, in the form of a booklet.

53. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 52 wherein the booklet comprises leaves of an identical size or a plurality of leaves in the booklet comprise different sizes.

54. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 53 wherein some or all of the leaves are of different size such that a plurality of the leaves present a marginal portion which can be viewed by a viewer without opening the booklet.

5 55. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 54 wherein all of the leaves comprise different sizes arranged such that all of the leaves present a marginal portion.

56. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 52 or 53 wherein the booklet comprises a plurality of sections comprising
10 at least one leaf per section, the sections being separated by a leaf having a different size than leaves in an adjacent section or sections.

57. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 41 - 56 wherein at least one of the sheet materials comprises
15 the sheet material as claimed in any one of Claims 36 - 40.

58. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 57 wherein the sheet material is connected to the cover such that the first, outermost segment is located outermost from the
20 cover when the sheet material is folded into the stack.

59. A sheet article comprising a cover to which is connected a sheet material comprising concertina folds, the sheet material being foldable and unfoldable about said folds, wherein the cover comprises a first portion
25 and a second portion arranged to enable sandwiching of the folded sheet material between said portions, and wherein the cover further comprises a handle portion protruding from the cover.

60. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 59 wherein the first and second portions are rotatably connected.

61. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 59 or 60 wherein the handle portion protrudes from an edge region of the cover, or transverse from surface of the first or second portions.

62. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 59 or 60 wherein the handle portion protrudes from or near the rotatable connection between the first and second portions.

63. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 59 - 62 wherein the handle portion is arranged to be co-planar or parallel with one of the first or second portions regardless of the relative orientation of the first portion and second portion.

64. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 63 wherein the handle portion is connected to the first portion and orientated so that it is co-planar or parallel with the first portion and extends beyond the rotatable connection between the first and second portions.

65. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 63 or 64 wherein the second portion comprises a cut-out section at or near to the rotatable connection between the first and second portions, and the handle portion comprises a part of the first portion that extends at least partly into the cut-out of the second portion when the portions are co-planar.

66. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 59 - 65 wherein the cover comprises one or more further sheet materials.